What is claimed is:

1. A method for the treatment of fibrosis in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject an amount of an inhibitor of HNOEL-iso polypeptide sufficient to effect a substantial inhibition of the HNOEL-iso polypeptide so as to thereby treat the subject.

2. A method of claim 1 wherein the fibrosis is liver fibrosis

3. A method of claim 1 wherein the fibrosis is pulmonary fibrosis

4. A method of claim 1 wherein the fibrosis is cardiac fibrosis.

5. A process of obtaining a compound which inhibits human HNOEL-iso polypeptide that comprises the steps of:

   i. contacting cells expressing the HNOEL-iso polypeptide with the compound;

   ii. measuring the effect of the compound on a parameter related to fibrosis; and

   iii. comparing the effect measured in step (ii) with the effect measured in the absence of the compound, a decrease in the effect measured indicating that the compound inhibits the human HNOEL-iso polypeptide.

6. The process of claim 5, wherein the parameter measured is collagen or fibronectin or hydroxy proline content in the cells or the proliferation rate of the cells.

7. The process of claim 5, wherein the cells comprise a tissue.

8. The process of claim 5, wherein the parameter measured is interstitial tissue volume or total tissue volume or the degree of inflammation in the tissue or the degree of apoptosis in the tissue.

9. The process of claim 5, wherein fibroblast cells expressing the HNOEL-iso polypeptide are contacted with the compound.

10. The process of claim 9, wherein the fibroblast cells are selected from liver, pulmonary and cardiac fibroblast cells.

11. The process of claim 5, wherein cells expressing the HNOEL-iso polypeptide as a result of having been transfected with the HNOEL-iso gene are contacted with the compound.

12. The process of claim 5, wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

13. Use of a compound obtained by the process of claim 5 in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of fibrosis.

14. Use according to claim 13 wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

15. A process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition which comprises:

i. obtaining a compound that effects the activity of a human HNOEL-iso polypeptide using the process of claim 5; and

ii. admixing said compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. The process of claim 15, wherein the compound is admixed with the carrier in a pharmaceutically effective amount.

17. A method of diagnosing a fibrosis in a subject comprising determining in a sample from the subject the level of HNOEL-iso polypeptide or the level of HNOEL-iso polypeptide-encoding polynucleotide, wherein a higher level of the polypeptide or the polynucleotide compared to the level in a subject free of such fibrosis is indicative of such fibrosis.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the sample is taken from a bodily fluid.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the bodily fluid is selected from the group of fluids consisting of blood, lymph fluid, ascites, serous fluid, pleural effusion, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid, lacrimal fluid, synovial fluid, saliva, stool, sperm and urine.

21. A process of obtaining a compound which inhibits a human HNOEL-iso polypeptide that comprises the steps of:

i. contacting the HNOEL-iso polypeptide with an interactor with which the HNOEL-iso polypeptide interacts specifically in vivo;

ii. contacting the HNOEL-iso polypeptide or the interactor with said compound; and

iii. measuring the effect of the compound on the interaction between HNOEL-iso polypeptide and the interactor by measuring a parameter related to fibrosis; and

iv. comparing the effect measured in step (iii) with the effect measured in the absence of the compound, a decrease in the effect measured indicating that the compound inhibits the activity of the human HNOEL-iso polypeptide.

22. Use of a compound obtained by the process of claim 21 in the preparation of a medicament for the therapy of fibrosis.

23. Use of claim 22, wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

24. A process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition which comprises:

i. obtaining a compound that inhibits the activity of a human HNOEL-iso polypeptide using the process of claim 21; and

ii. admixing said compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. A process of obtaining a compound which inhibits a human HNOEL-iso polypeptide by screening a plurality of compounds that comprises the steps of:

i. contacting cells expressing the HNOEL-iso polypeptide with a plurality of compounds;

ii. measuring the effect of the compounds on a parameter related to fibrosis; and

iii. comparing the effect measured in step (ii) with the effect measured in the absence of the compounds, a decrease in the effect measured indicating that the compounds inhibit the HNOEL-iso polypeptide.

iv. separately determining which compound or compounds present in the plurality inhibits the human HNOEL-iso polypeptide.

26. The process of claim 25, wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

27. Use of an antibody which binds specifically to HNOEL-iso polypeptide in a preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of fibrosis.

28. Use of an antibody according to claim 27, wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

29. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of fibrosis comprising as an active ingredient an antibody which binds specifically to HNOEL-iso polypeptide together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. Use of an siRNA which is specific to HNOEL-iso polynucleotide in a preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of fibrosis.

31. The use of claim 30 wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.

32. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of fibrosis comprising as an active ingredient an siRNA which binds specifically to HNOEL-iso polynucleotide together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 31 wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis

34. A method for diagnosis of fibrosis in a body fluid sample from a subject comprising:

i. contacting the sample with an antibody specific to HNOEL-iso polypeptide under conditions enabling the formation of an antibody-antigen complex;

ii. determining the level of antibody- antigen complex formed, wherein a determination of the presence of a level of antibody – antigen complex significantly higher than that formed in a control sample indicates fibrosis in the subject.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the fibrosis is selected from liver fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis and cardiac fibrosis.